

Lesson Forty

Sūrah Al-Ikhlās⁽⁵⁷⁾

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ (٢) لَمْ يَكِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ (٣) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝ (٤)

(1) Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "He is Allāh ﷻ, (the) One. (2) Allāh ﷻ is the Eternally Besought of all.⁽⁵⁸⁾ (3) He begets not, nor was He begotten; (4) And there is none equivalent to Him."

Overview of the Sūrah

Sūrah Al-Ikhlās is a Makkī Sūrah. It is composed of 4 Verses, and it is Sūrah no. 112 according to the arrangement of the *Mushaf*. This Sūrah discusses the subject of Allāh's Oneness (*At-Tawhīd*), that He is the one sought out at all times, and that He is completely Self-Sufficient. It absolves Him of having any deficiency or resembling His Creation in His Essence, His Attributes, and His Actions.

(57) "Sincerity"

(58) Or "the Universal Refuge".

Translation Word-for-Word

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|
| say | قُلْ | He begets | يَكِدْ |
| He | هُوَ | nor | وَلَمْ |
| (is) Allah ﷻ | اللَّهُ | He was begotten | يُولَدْ |
| that One | أَحَدٌ | and (there) is not | وَلَمْ يَكُنْ |
| Allah ﷻ | اللَّهُ | unto Him | لَهُ |
| the Self-Sufficient | الصَّمَدُ | co-equal or comparable | كُفُوًا |
| not | لَمْ | anyone | أَحَدٌ |

Selected Vocabulary

| | |
|--|-----------|
| One, having no partners; [unique] | أَحَدٌ |
| The Rich, Self-Sufficient (<i>Al-Ghanī</i>) Master (<i>Al-Sayyid</i>) who is perfect in every respect; [also: the One Who is sought out by all for the fulfillment of their needs] | الصَّمَدُ |
| equivalent, equal | كُفُوًا |

Tafsīr

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ (٢) لَمْ يَكِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ (٣) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝ (٤)

(1) Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "He is Allāh ﷻ (the) One. (2) Allāh ﷻ is the Eternally Besought of all.⁽⁵⁹⁾ (3) He begets not, nor was He begotten; (4) And there is none equivalent to Him."

The purpose of this Noble *Sūrah* is to make us familiar with Allāh ﷻ. Therefore, it orders the Prophet ﷺ to say:

Indeed, Allāh ﷻ is One (*Wāhid*) and Unique (*Ahad*); there is no one who shares any of His Attributes.

He is the Self-Sufficient Master Who is not in need of anyone. No one can transcend His Authority; no one can go above His Word. He is the One to whom all the creatures raise their needs. They seek him out in all their important matters and for all their requests.

He is the Great God Who does not have any offspring, nor did He issue forth from anyone. Therefore, He has not begotten anyone else, nor was He begotten from anyone else, exalted is Allāh ﷻ above that. It is for that reason that He is One.

Furthermore, none of His creation is equivalent to Him. No one can rival Him in His Essence, His Characteristics, and His Actions. Thus, He ﷻ is as He has said of Himself: "There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing." [42:11]

Furthermore, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ has explained the virtue of this *Sūrah*, saying, "It is equal to one-third of the *Qur'ān*." This is because it tells us about our Lord (ﷻ).

Lessons and Reflections

These Verses teach us numerous lessons, including the following:

- (1) Allāh ﷻ is One in His Being, His Characteristics, and His Actions; there is none like Him.
- (2) Allāh ﷻ does not beget, nor was He begotten. He is Self-Sufficient (*Al-Ghanī*) and Eternally Besought by all (*As-Samad*), and so He is not in need of anyone.

(59) Or "the Universal Refuge".

- (3) All the created beings are in need of Allāh ﷻ, and He is the One Who is sought out at all times.

Evaluation

Answer the following questions:

- (1) Clarify the meaning of the following:
 - a. اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ
 - b. اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ
 - c. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ
- (2) Why was *Sūrah Al-Ikhlās* given this title?